Public Notice – Approval of Water Quality Management Planning Actions

Notice of action: The State Water Control Board (Board) is considering the approval of two Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) reports and four TMDL implementation plans (TMDL IPs) and granting authorization to include the TMDL reports and implementation plans in the appropriate Water Quality Management Plans.

Purpose of notice: The Board is seeking comment on the proposed approvals and authorizations. The purpose of these actions is to approve six water quality management planning documents (two TMDL reports and four TMDL IPs) as Virginia's plans for the pollutant reductions and management actions necessary for attainment of water quality goals in several impaired waterbodies. These actions are taken in accordance with the Public Participation Procedures for Water Quality Management Planning.

Public comment period: July 11, 2006 to August 10, 2006

Description of proposed action: At its December 2, 2004 meeting, the Board voted unanimously to delegate to the DEQ Director the authority to approve TMDLs that do not include waste load allocations requiring regulatory adoption by the Board, provided that a summary report of the action the Director plans to take is presented to the Board prior to the Director approving the TMDL reports. The TMDLs included in this public notice will be approved using this delegation of authority.

The TMDLs listed below were developed in accordance with Federal Regulations (40 CFR §130.7) and are exempt from the provisions of Article II of the Virginia Administrative Process Act. The TMDLs have been through the TMDL public participation process contained in DEQ's Public Participation Procedures for Water Quality Management Planning. The public comment process provides the affected stakeholders an opportunity for public appeal of the TMDLs. EPA approved all TMDL reports presented under this public notice. The approved reports can be found at http://gisweb.deq.virginia.gov/tmdlapp/tmdl_report_search.cfm.

At its June 26, 2005 meeting, the Board voted unanimously to delegate to the DEQ Director the authority to approve TMDL IPs, provided that a summary report of the action the Director plans to take is presented to the Board prior to the Director approving the TMDL IPs. The TMDL IPs included in this public notice will be approved using this delegation of authority.

The TMDL IPs listed below were developed in accordance with the 1997 Water Quality Monitoring, Information and Restoration Act (WQMIRA, §62.1-44.19:4 through 19:8 of the Code of Virginia) and federal recommendations. The TMDL IPs were developed in accordance with DEQ's Public Participation Procedures for Water Quality Management Planning. Extensive public participation was solicited during the development of the plans, and the public comment process provided the affected stakeholders with opportunities for comment on the proposed plans. The final TMDL IPs can be found at http://www.deg.state.va.us/tmdl/iprpts.html

DEQ staff intends to recommend that 1) the DEQ Director approve the TMDL reports and TMDL IPs listed below as Virginia's plans for the pollutant reductions and management actions necessary for attainment of water quality goals in the impaired segments, and 2) that the DEQ Director authorize inclusion of the TMDL reports and TMDL IPs in the appropriate Water Quality Management Plans. No regulatory amendments are required for these TMDLs and their associated waste load allocations.

Affected Waterbodies and Localities:

In the Potomac-Shenandoah River Basin:

"Bacteria Total Maximum Daily Load Development for Beaver Creek"

1. Beaver Creek bacteria TMDL, located in Rockingham County, proposes bacteria reductions for portions of the watershed

"Bacteria Total Maximum Daily Load Development for North River

2. North River bacteria TMDL, located in Augusta and Rockingham Counties, proposes bacteria reductions for portions of the watershed

"Water Quality Implementation Plan for Blacks Run and Cooks Creek (Fecal Coliform and Aquatic Life TMDLs)"

- Cooks Creek bacteria, sediment and phosphorus TMDL implementation plan, Rockingham County and the City of Harrisonburg, proposes management actions to achieve water quality goals
- 4. Blacks Run bacteria and sediment TMDL implementation plan, Rockingham County and the City of Harrisonburg, proposes management actions to achieve water quality goals

In the Roanoke River Basin:

"Water Quality Implementation Plan for Lower Blackwater River, Maggodee Creek and Gills Creek (Fecal Coliform TMDLs)"

- Lower Blackwater River bacteria TMDL implementation plan, Franklin County, proposes management actions to achieve water quality goals
- 6. Maggodee Creek bacteria TMDL implementation plan, Franklin County, proposes management actions to achieve water quality goals
- 7. Gills Creek bacteria TMDL implementation plan, Franklin County, proposes management actions to achieve water quality goals

"Upper Stroubles Creek Watershed TMDL Implementation Plan, Montgomery County, Virginia"

8. Stroubles Creek sediment TMDL implementation plan, Montgomery County and the City of Blacksburg, proposes management actions to achieve water quality goals

In the Rappahannock River Basin:

"Thumb Run, Carter Run, Great Run, and Deep Run Bacteria Total Maximum Daily Load Implementation Plan"

- Thumb Run bacteria TMDL implementation plan, Fauquier and Stafford Counties, proposes management actions to achieve water quality goals
- 10. Carter Run bacteria TMDL implementation plan, Fauquier and Stafford Counties, proposes management actions to achieve water quality goals
- 11. Great Run bacteria TMDL implementation plan, Fauquier and Stafford Counties, proposes management actions to achieve water quality goals
- 12. Deep Run bacteria TMDL implementation plan, Fauquier and Stafford Counties, proposes management actions to achieve water quality goals

How to comment: The DEQ accepts written comments by e-mail, fax and postal mail. All written comments must include the full name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ by 5 p.m. on the last day of the comment period.

How a decision is made: After comments have been considered, the board will make the final decision. Citizens that submit statements during the comment period may address the board members during the board meeting at which a final decision is made on the proposal.

To review documents: The TMDL reports and TMDL implementation plans are available on the DEQ web site at http://www.deq.virginia.gov/tmdl/ and by contacting the DEQ representative named below. The electronic copies are in PDF format and may be read online or downloaded.

Contact for public comments, document requests and additional information: Jutta Schneider; Department of Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 10009, Richmond, VA 23219 Phone: (804) 698-4099 E-mail: jschneider@deq.virginia.gov FAX: (804) 698-4116